

AFRL personnel receive Angel Awards

by Katherine Gleason, AFRL Public Affairs

WRIGHT-PATTERSON AIR FORCE BASE, Ohio— Three AFRL individuals and one Propulsion Directorate (PR) team were honored with Wright-Patterson Angel Awards in a ceremony held May 1, at the Air Force Museum Auditorium.

The Angel Awards were created to recognize individuals and teams within each Air Force community who have displayed a commitment to volunteerism throughout their communities. Each individual recipient received a certificate designating them as Wright-Patterson “Angels”, a volunteer recognition pin, and the Air Force wide “Angel Award” pin, which has the propeller and wings graced by a halo. Team award winners were presented with an Angel Award plaque.

Individual recipients were Grace Janiszewski, Sensor’s Directorate Plans and Programs Branch; Marlene Elliott, Wright Site Corporate Services Division; and Jeanette Robinson, Advanced Propulsion Turbine Contracting Branch. The team award was given to PR’s Project Helping Hands Team led by Lynne Nelson, PR’s Mechanical Systems Branch, Turbine Engine Division. Awards were presented by ASC Commander Lt. Gen. Richard Reynolds.

Janiszewski was honored for her work with the American Red Cross both as a volunteer coordinator and a weekly pharmacy volunteer, Fairborn Cares, Deployed Spouses support group, and Family Services. In addition, she is active with Greene County Master Gardeners Association offering outreach for grade school aged children and community gardens that help feed the less fortunate, as well as individual support given to deployed/extended TDY (temporary duty) families.

Robinson was recognized for her extensive volunteer activities. She is actively involved in the Wright-Step program, an annual four-week program that provides educational opportunities for inner city children. Robinson also frequently visited those in her congregation who were sick or shut in and not able to attend church, and provided communion services at their homes. Additionally, she is involved in health and wellness programs at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base and in her community.

“I am very grateful to have my angels, supervisors, Dave Blasius and Roger Mullins, who encouraged my idea to bring a wellness program at our worksite,” said Robinson. “I know that this program has helped so many in Detachment 1 AFRL Contracting. Hopefully, we will be able to have wellness boards throughout PR (Propulsion Directorate).”

Elliott received her Angel Award for work as Vice President of the Miami Valley Chapter Federally Employed Women (FEW), where she was in charge of programs. She set up speakers for each monthly meeting, and integrated FEW with the community by using speakers from Habitat for Humanity and the Women’s Recovery Center. Elliott currently serves as FEW Donations Chair, and delivers donations to various organizations in Greene County. She also served on the Presbyterian Presence Tornado Response Team to help the victims of the Xenia tornado.

“It was a lovely ceremony,” said Elliott. “I was really surprised when I won my award. I feel blessed because I really enjoy all my volunteer work and don’t expect any compensation.”

A team Angel Award was presented to the Project Helping Hands Team comprised of 16 personnel from the Propulsion Directorate at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base. This group was developed in an effort to offer humanitarian support to the local community. They have organized a variety of fundraisers, contributed to victims of September 11, and developed an adopt-a-family program to help underprivileged families at Christmas.

Additional Project Helping Hands team members include Robin Bartley, Jane Cansler, Capt. Tony Cerminaro, Toni DeLoach, Betsy Graham, Hank Grinner, 1st Lt. Kim Groleau, Linda Hartsock, Kathy Johnson, Debby Kaucher, Wanda Longstreth, Sally Martin, Angela Pickard, Melissa Prickett, Capt. Michelle Rauch, Laurie Regazzi, and Sharon Steltz.

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“We were honored by our Angel Award, but it truly belongs to the entire Propulsion Directorate,” said Nelson. “Project Helping Hands would not exist without the overwhelming heartfelt support of the individual members of AFRL/PR.”

The Angel Award program was founded in 1988 by Eunice Welch, wife of retired Gen. Larry Welch, former Air Force Chief of Staff. @